

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510-1502

COMMITTEES:
AGRICULTURE
APPROPRIATIONS
HEALTH, EDUCATION,
LABOR, AND PENSIONS
SMALL BUSINESS

April 28, 2011

The Honorable Barack Obama
President of the United States
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, D.C. 20500

Dear Mr. President:

I write today to urge expeditious approval of Governor Terry Branstad's request that Buena Vista, Cherokee, Ida, Monona, Pocahontas and Sac Counties receive a federal declaration of a Major Disaster. This declaration will allow federal aid to immediately supplement state and local response efforts.

The counties mentioned above were devastated by severe storms, including several tornados, on the evening of April 9, 2011. These storms resulted in significant damages to a number of towns, farmsteads and rural residences. For that reason, Governor Terry Branstad issued a Disaster Proclamation for these counties on April 20, 2011. The damage from these storms is evident in areas across the State of Iowa, particularly in the Monona County town of Mapleton.

As Governor Branstad's disaster declaration request indicates, significant manpower and equipment available at the state, county, and local level have been dedicated to responding to and recovering from this storm. The preliminary damage assessment completed by local and state emergency management staff in cooperation with the Federal Emergency Management Agency officials has confirmed severe impact to private residences, community facilities, farms dwelling and outbuildings, livestock, and utilities.

I therefore urge you to assist the State of Iowa and the affected counties in every way possible so they may quickly recover from this disaster. Thank you for your prompt attention to this important matter.

Sincerely,



Tom Harkin
United States Senator